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## Grammar tutorial

55e88d0670e4e4980d3060ef561683b8557fa915804c9ddf /en/grammar/literally-or-figuratively/content/ Who's or whose?Detective McClane solves the biggest mystery of his career: the difference between who's and whose...When do you use who's, and when do you use whose? However, there's no set rule that governs this. Here are some of the most common abbreviations you'll see and use: You may have noticed that the abbreviations for ounce (oz) and pound (lb) are a little different from the rest. It might help to think of acronyms as something catchier than abbreviations (after all, they represent longer phrases, so it helps if they're memorable). However, this sentence is incorrect because an adjective can't be used to describe a verb (drove). Common abbreviations There are abbreviations for so many different things, it would be impossible to list them all here. ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ A B bare infinitive base form brackets C D E F G H helping verb homonym hyperbole hyphen I J K L limiting modifier linking verb literal meaning logoglyph M N O P Q question mark quotation marks R S T U V W X Y Z Was something wrong with this page? There are some exceptions that are pronounced differently. Sometimes it's just a question of, "Can the acronym be pronounced as a word?" A lot of acronyms can't because they don't have the right combination of vowels and consonants. Even though it could be pronounced as a word (it has the right combination of consonants and vowels), it's always pronounced literally—A-K-A, Jr. is the abbreviation for Junior. Like abbreviations, there's a lot of overlap between acronyms and initialisms—but remember, this doesn't really matter when it comes to using them. As you now know, abbreviations and acronyms can save time and space, and they can make your writing easier to read. Do you know which acronyms and abbreviations could be used as substitutes? For example, to use commas accurately, you must understand dependent clauses, independent clauses, conjunctions, interjections, the vocative case, cumulative adjectives, parenthesis, and apposition. If he was more optimistic, he might have said, Hopefully, it will all work out. We didn't discuss this in the lesson, but if you look closely at the abbreviation, you can probably see where it comes from—it's simply the first three letters of the word. (Here's the clever bit. Revise and practise your grammar to help you increase your confidence and improve your language level. Our sendable tests require no accounts and no log-ins. It often depends on the business' branding, and how they prefer to be known to the public.PM is the abbreviation for Post Meridiem. For example, is sassy an adjective or adverb in the image below? If one cupcake was larger than the others, we could have said it was the big cupcake. Abbreviations are all around us, from common titles like Dr. and Prof. The abbreviation etc. VIP is an acronym for very important person(s). Unlike abbreviations, they aren't shorter spellings of words—they're made up of the words' initials. VIP is pronounced literally (V-I-P) rather than "vip" or "veep." /en/grammar/commas/content/ In this free Grammar tutorial, you'll get the grammar help you need to avoid making grammatical mistakes in your writing and in life. Practise your English grammar with clear grammar explanations and practice exercises to ... Welcome to Grammar Monster! We have hundreds of lessons, tests, games, and word lists covering everything from basic vocabulary to tips for advanced writers. As always, this type of slang can be OK in certain contexts, but it might leave some readers feeling confused. Specifically, abbreviations are shorter spellings of words and expressions we use every day. This is because the abbreviations are based on older forms of each word—ounce comes from the Italian word onza, and pound from the Roman word libra. An adjective is a word that describes a noun. You might already know some acronyms, like NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) and ATM (automated teller machine). That's more of a slang abbreviation, used in conversation and casual writing (sometimes as a joke). Once you understand their definitions, it isn't too hard to tell them apart. On the other hand, some abbreviations never use a period; for example, state postal abbreviations like NY, CA, and TX. In short, if the acronym is more widely known, list it first; if it's more obscure, you may want to start with the entire phrase. OJ is more of a slang term than an official abbreviation or acronym. (As the tests and games on this page are different to the ones in the lessons, teachers typically use these ones as additional tests.) Our tests are sendable. Adverb!Even though this word comes before the verb it describes, it still tells us how they made their cakes. Example 1: Whose glove is this? Whose Whose is possessive, meaning it shows who something belongs to. Adjective!Like many adjectives, this one comes right before the noun it's describing. Instead, it means the entire sentence will be spoken in a frank, or direct, way. Not everyone will be familiar with slang like NIMBY (not in my back yard) and TGIF (thank goodness it's Friday). If his staring had been weird, we could have said he was staring weirdly. XYoutubeFacebookmailing listgrammar forum Learning grammatical terms is essential to take your language study or writing skills to the next level. This is common for certain types of abbreviations (especially those related to time and measurement). In the example above, the word pink describes a particular cupcake. Most abbreviations are pronounced the same as the word they're based on, like hr, min, and sec (that's hour, minute, and second). Take the word BLT. If you've heard the acronym before, but never knew what it stood for, that's OK. They don't just shorten words; they stand for organizations, ideas, and other things you want people to remember. Below is a sample that contains the full form of several different words, phrases, and expressions. (That's Latin for before noon. Using adjectives and adverbs You know adjectives and adverbs are both words that describe something. However, in your own writing, feel free to add a period if it makes the abbreviation easier to read.Capt. But for many people, these words are also easy to mix up, is a common abbreviation for February. Using abbreviations Abbreviations are usually formed using the most recognizable letters from the word or expression. Using acronyms As you read earlier, acronyms are used in place of a phrase or string of words. What is an adverb? This makes them easier to remember, and easy for others to read, would be pronounced et cetera (not e-t-c). Remember, adverbs can appear at the beginning of a sentence, but you aren't very likely to see an adjective there. To make this sentence correct, we could change the adjective to an adverb: He drove quickly. Take the example below. Notice that it's not capitalized in the sentence, and it doesn't use a period either. Knowing how to pronounce acronyms depends a lot your awareness of the world around you, but it's not the end of the world if you make a mistake. What about chat terms like LOL (laugh out loud), BRB (be right back), and plz (please)? is the official abbreviation; it's used in the military, police force, and other organizations.Inc. Misc. Common adverbs and adjectivesA lot of adjectives and adverbs are actually based on the same word, which is one reason they're sometimes difficult to tell apart. What is an acronym? Thankfully, there are some simple rules that will help you know which is which and when to use them. is the abbreviation for the word population—without a period, it might just look like pop (as in pop goes the weasel). But it can be easy to mix them up and forget which is which, so it's important to know how each one is used. Good guess if you got this one right. And while adjectives are usually close to the words they describe, adverbs can move around more freely in a sentence. The pronunciation of acronyms can vary, however. For example, AM stands for Ante Meridiem. Abbreviations are perfectly OK in personal and casual writing—they're often OK in formal writing too. There's an abbreviation for almost every month, from January (Jan.) to December (Dec.). If you see a word that ends in ly, there's a good chance it's an adverb, not an adjective. They're spelled using letters that aren't part of the original word. This is what makes acronyms unique—you can read them as they appear, even though they stand for something else. Create a QR code for this, or any, page. You might want to ask your boss or your teacher if you're unsure. Can you use this rule to tell what's wrong with this sentence? More specifically, adverbs tell us how, when, or where something happened. Example 1: Who's going to the party tonight? Many of the entries have a video icon, which is a link to a video tutorial on our YouTube channel. They're almost always made up of the words' initials and are spelled in all caps. Some months don't have an abbreviation because the spelling is already so short (May, June, and July). Ask yourself: Will the abbreviation make the sentence easier to read, or will it confuse the reader (for example, if the abbreviation is too obscure)? Each entry has a link to a lesson that includes example sentences as well as a printable and sendable test. to the abbreviations you see on street signs. Look at the ending You might have already noticed that many adverbs end with the letters ly. Did you get this one right? An acronym is a stand-in for a string of words, usually an organization name, slogan, or something else equally wordy. Adverbs, on the other hand, are used to describe verbs, which means they can explain how something happened, when something happened, or where something happened. Remember, adjectives are used to describe nouns, which means they can explain what kind of thing you have, how many things you have, or which thing you're talking about. Period vs. It's used almost exclusively in conversation and casual writing (and your weekly shopping list).PB&J stands for peanut butter and jelly. Most of the time, they're pronounced the same as the original word—whether you're reading it aloud or in your head. The abbreviation for United States of America can be written with a period between each letter, but it's much more common without. Now the sentence describes how he was driving. Look at the context If you're not sure whether to use an adverb or an adjective, try to figure out what you're describing. If you don't understand those terms, you are flying by the seat of your pants regarding comments. Because it doesn't have an ly ending, you might have guessed that quick is an adjective. is the abbreviation for Incorporated. This happens when the abbreviation becomes more popular than the original term—usually because the original is too long or outdated. However, it's important to see that it's actually describing how the girls will need to act (fast), rather than how fast that something is.Adjective!Even though it's not next to a noun, this word tells us more about the size of the cakes. You wouldn't pronounce it built or belt either; you would say B-L-T. It can be used to refer to someone who is a junior in name (for example, Martin Luther King, Jr.) or a junior in high school or college. If an abbreviation still sounds like a good idea, next consider the context. Acronyms are read differently from abbreviations. Capt. If you're learning a foreign language in a classroom setting, then you must know the grammatical terms so you and your tutor can discuss language structures efficiently. Many blur the line between abbreviations and acronyms, but they're abbreviations nonetheless. If you saw that on the menu at your favorite restaurant, there's a good chance you'd just order a BLT, not a bacon, lettuce, and tomato sandwich. Look closely at the heading above, and you may find your answer. In fact, we have thousands of our tests are also sendable, which is a useful feature for teachers who want to set assignments for students. Adverb!This might look like an adjective, because it's right next to a noun. For example, Prof. We have thousands of tests! The tests on this page are just a sample of our tests. Is it OK to use abbreviations? AKA is an acronym for also known as. So pink is an adjective. The lessons and videos above are deliberately detailed as they are intended for teachers or advanced learners. It also saves paper. They make it possible to communicate quickly, and that's what makes them a form of abbreviation. Not only is répondez s'il vous plait long and sort of old-fashioned—it's also in a completely different language!OJ stands for orange juice—yet another term that we didn't cover in this lesson, but it's easy to see the connection. Adjectives also make it easy to understand which thing you're talking about. (Who's could be replaced with Who is). In other words, you don't have to say "PB&J sandwich"—you can just say PB&J.Misc. The ly ending is another clue that this is an adverb. The same goes for measurement abbreviations like ft, in, and cm. Now that you know how abbreviations are formed, you may be wondering how they're pronounced. Some abbreviations look like acronyms (for example, mph and NY), but it's really just a coincidence. What is an abbreviation? Maybe you've seen it spelled a different way on a certain cereal box—ever heard of Cap'n Crunch? It will usually appear just before the noun it's describing. Example 2: Jane, who's got four dogs, became a veterinarian. In the example above, the word deeply describes how he was staring, so deeply is an adverb. Good job if you got this one correct! If you didn't, that's OK—the abbreviation is far more common than the expression it's based on. In other words, they abbreviate something in a contemporary way, using initials, slang, and other shorthand. Use the techniques you just learned and see if you can pick out the adjectives and adverbs below.Adverb!This word tells us when the girls realized their mistake. Believe it or not, OK is an abbreviation too, and we use it on the site all the time. (In the glossary below, there are simpler versions of these lessons, annotated "for kids.") This lesson with the accompanying video is a helpful, simplified introduction to the nine parts of speech. Even though it's right next to a verb (is), sassy is an adjective because it describes the magician. Just like adjectives, adverbs are used to add detail to a sentence. An adverb is a word that describes a verb. While some are pronounced literally like the example above, others can actually be pronounced as a word, like UNICEF, POTUS, and NASA. You can also write them in the opposite order—whatever makes more sense. It's almost like the letters are clues that point to the original word or expression. When and how to use acronyms Sometimes you may need to explain the acronym when using it in writing. If you're looking to improve your writing, then you must know the grammatical terms to remove the guesswork from aspects such as punctuation, sentence structure, and capitalization. For instance, AM, PM, i.e., and PhD are pronounced exactly the way they're spelled. It's common for clubs to have VIP lounges or services, but people can be VIPs too (i.e., the person is a very important person). /en/grammar/capitalization/content/ home-sitemap »tests and games Below are links to hundreds of free tests and games on English grammar, which are grouped by their part of speech (e.g., adjective, noun) or another major category (e.g., punctuation, vocabulary). Here's a list of the adjectives and adverbs you'll see the most.You can also place an adverb between the word to and a verb. They're designed to save time and take up less space (whether you're typing or writing by hand), and can even make your writing easier to read. 9 parts of speech This A-Z list of grammatical terms provides links to the explanations of the meanings. Luckily, you don't have to remember exactly what PM stands for. Here, frankly is an adverb, but it doesn't describe any specific verb in the sentence. Sr. (Senior) is a related abbreviation—as in Martin Luther King, Sr.RSPV stands for répondez s'il vous plait. Who knew?) Luckily, there aren't many exceptions like this, so you don't have to worry too much about making a mistake. For example, you might see an adverb at the beginning of a sentence. You just have to know what the term means, and how to spell it—everything else will usually fall into place. (Who's could be replaced with who's). Table of Contents Fundamental Grammar Terms Introduction to the Nine Parts of Speech A-Z Glossary (276 Grammar Terms) Here are the nine principal parts of speech (also called "word classes"). no period This is one of the most common questions people have about abbreviations: Do you have to use a period at the end when writing it out? The site is packed with teaching ... Thankfully, you don't have to know whether something is an abbreviation, initialism, or acronym to use it properly. It's much easier to think of it as an abbreviation for afternoon.Feb. This is one of those special cases where the acronym is now more common than the original phrase. is a very common substitute for miscellaneous—even in formal writing—simply because the original word is so long.Min is the abbreviation for minute. In the past, this was considered a serious grammatical error, but it's commonly used and accepted today. This is called a split infinitive. Technically, these are initialisms, which is a type of abbreviation. Look at the placement Here's an easy way to know where to put an adjective in a sentence. Like OJ, it's more like slang than an official acronym. The interesting thing about PB&J is that it's sort of its own "thing," because the acronym is so memorable and symbolic. Snape would be pronounced Professor Snape (not Prof Snape). Unfortunately, placement doesn't always tell you if something is an adverb or adjective. There's no strict rule that says you do—it's kind of up to you. In other words, it tells us more about a particular person, place, or thing. A lot of contemporary acronyms might need to be explained for different reasons (this also applies to the chat abbreviations that we discussed earlier). Pop.

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